

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9441

INFO BANGKOK 645

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5446

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR US VN VS CB LA XC

SUBJ: SOVIET POLICY TOWARD "POST-LIBERATION"INDOCHINA

REF: A. MOSCOW 4207; B. MOSCOW 1128 (EXDIS)

1. THE INSURGENT TAKEOVER IN PHNOM PENH AND HANOI'S CONTINUED GAINS I
N
SOUTH VIETNAM PRESENT NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED SOVIET PRESENCE
AND
INFLUENCE IN INDOCHINA (SEE REFTELS). GIVEN MOSCOW'S OVERRIDING INTE
REST
IN COUNTERING PEKING'S INFLUENCE, AND ITS SOLID SUPPORT FOR HANOI, WE
EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THESE NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

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2. IN CAMBODIA, WE WOULD EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO: (A) MOVE FAST TO

ESTABLISH GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE NEW REGIME. MOSCOW NO DOUB
T
HOPES THAT THE INSURGENTS WILL KEEP SIHANOUK EFFECTIVELY REMOVED
FROM THE LEVERS OF REAL POWER. BUT AT THIS STAGE THE PRECISE COM-
POSITION OF THE REGIME IS LESS IMPORTANT TO THE SOVIETS THAN THE
FACT THAT A REGIME EXISTS WHICH THEY CAN SUPPORT. (B) OFFER A
SUBSTANTIAL AID PACKAGE AS THE BEST WAY TO GET THEMSELVES BACK
IN THE CAMBODIAN PICTURE.

3. IN SOVIET VIETNAM, WE EXPECT THAT MOSCOW: (A) WILL CONTINUE TO
FOLLOW HANOI'S LEAD AND RATIONALIZE ITS SUCCESSFUL AGGRESSION.
HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT SOVIET POUUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS TO TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT TO SOME DEGREE US SENSITIVITIES IN THIS REGARD.
(B) WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR SOME FORM OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT,
HOWEVER THINLY DISGUISED, TO A DRV MILITARY TAKEOVER OF SAIGON,
BUT WOULD NOT SPEND TOO MUCH OF ITS CAPITAL IN HANOI TO URGE THE
DRV TOWARD ONE. (C) WOULD SEE NO ADVANTAGE FOR ITSELF IN AN
ACTIVE SOVIET ROLE IN ANY NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH MIGHT DEVELOP,
AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY RELCTANT TO TAKE ON A HIGH VISIBILITY
ROLE WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH HANOI OR WITH
WASHINGTON. (D) WILL FOLLOW UP ITS COMMITMENT OF "UNOFFICIAL"
AID TO THE PEOPLE OF THE "LIBERATED AREAS" OF SOUTH VIETNAM
(MOSCOW 5342) WITH SUBSTANTIAL NEW AID FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT.

4. IN LAOS, THE SOVIETS WILL, IN OUR VIEW, CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
THE SOUVANNA GOVERNMENT WHILE HOLDING OPEN THE OPTION OF MORE
DIRECT SUPPORT FOR THE PATHET LAO SHOULD IT DECIDE TO USE THE
PRESENT CRISIS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO FORCE A CRISIS WITHIN
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.
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